

## Message Text

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13

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 RSR-01 /105 W

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R 142214 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4307

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJECT: HARDLINERS PREVAIL AT PDC JUNTA

REF: SANTIAGO 2067 ( NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. BY SUBSTANTIAL MARGIN AYLWIN ( FREI WING) WON OUT OVER INCUMBENT FUENTEALBA FOR PDC PRESIDENCY. PDC UNITY DOES NOT SEEM THREATENED BY JUNTA' S ENDORSEMENT OF USINGNALL LEGAL EXPEDIENTS TO OPPOSE ALLENDE. END SUMMARY.

2. PDC NATIONAL JUNTA MAY 12-13 ELECTED SENATOR PDC AYLWIN AS PARTY PRESIDENT. HE REPLACES SENATOR RENAN FUENTEALBA. ( ALTHOUGH FUENTEALBA WITHDREW FROM THE RUNNING LAST WEEK -- REF -- HE REACTIVATED HIS CANDIDACY AT LAST MOMENT UNDER URGING FROM FELLOW LEFTWINGERS.) AYLWIN' S SUCCESS GIVES FREI SECTOR OF PARTY ENHANCED VOICE IN SHAPING PDC POLICY.

3. REMAINDER OF LEADERSHIP POSTS ( MESA) REPRESENTED COMPROMISE BETWEEN HARDLINERS AND THOSE, LIKE FUENTEALBA, IDENTIFIED WITH MORE FLEXIBLE POSITION VIS- A- VIS GOVT. HELD OVER FROM FUENTEALBA LEADERSHIP WERE SEN OSVALDO OLGUIN ( FIRST VP) AND

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FELIPE AMUNATEGUI (3 D VP). NEWLY ELECTED WERE PRO- FREI PORT-WORKER LEADER CARLOS SALAS (2 D VP), AND DEPUTY EDUARDO CERDA ( SEC GEN). FREISTAS GAINED SOME GROUND IN PDC NATIONAL COUNCIL WHERE CARMEN FREI, RAUL DEVES AND JAIME CASTILLO ARE AMONG NEW FACES, ALONG WITH SOFTLINER BERNARDO LEIGHTON.

4. FLOOR DEBATE WAS LARGELY OVER COMPETING POLICY DRAFTS SUBMITTED BY AYLWIN AND FUENTEALBA FORCES. ( THIRD ONE SPONSORED BY LABOR DEPT WAS EVENTUALLY WITHDRAWN.) ALTHOUGH DISCUSSION PROLONGED AND OCCASIONALLY SHARP, THERE WAS MUCH COMMON GROUND. DIFFERENCES WERE OVER DEGREES OF HARDNESS AND WHAT AYLWIN LATER DESCRIBED AS " STYLE." FUENTEALBA DRAFT REAFFIRMED CONVICTION THAT ALLENDE GOVT WOULD " CRUMBLE BENEATH WEIGHT OF ITS OWN ERRORS," WHEREAS SYLWIN, IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF STANCES SMAKING OF PASSIVITY, URGED CONFRONTATION WITH UP ON ALL POSSIBLE " LEGAL" FRONTS, ON GROUNDS THAT POWER IS ONLY LANGUAGE ALLENDE GOVT HEEDS.

5. AYLWIN' S FORMULATION WON OUT OVER FUENTEALBA' S 249 TO 187, ASSURING AYLWIN' S EVENTUAL ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION. LEIGHTON, SENATOR NARCISO IRURETA AND YOUTH PRES RICARDO HORMAZABAL ZEALOUSLY CHAMPIONED FUENTEALBA LINE; SENATORS RAFAEL MORENO AND JUAN CARMONA LED AYLWIN FORCES. FREI AND TOMIC ATTENDED BUT REPORTEDLY KEPT TO SIDELINES. LOSERS ACCEPTED DEFEAT WITH GOOD GRACE. THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF DEVELOPING SCHISMS.

6. ACCORDING EL MERCURIO, FREI' S CANDIDACY FOR SENATE PRESIDENT WAS ANNOUNCED DURING SESSIONS.

7. COMMENT. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WERE BEING ATTENTIVELY WATCHED FROM OUTSIDE. MUCH OF UP' S TRUMPETING PAST WEEK OF " IMMINENT DANGER OF CIVIL WAR" WAS MEANT FOR PDC EARS, TO STIR APPREHENSION OF RISKS INHERENT IN HARDLINE VICTORY; JUST AS PN' S PLEAS FOR OPPOSITION UNITY AND CIVIL RESISTANCE BY ALL LEGAL MEANS HAD OPPOSITE OBJECT. THAT NEW PDC LEADERSHIP PRESAGES DRAMATIC SHIFT IN PARTY TACTCS REMAINS TO BE PROVED. EVEN UNDER FUENTEALBA, THE UP' S DISREGARD FOR PDC SENSIBILITIES DROVE SOFTLINERS INTO BELLIGERENCE HARDLY DISTINGUISHABLE FROM WHAT FREISTAS ADVOCATED.

8. JUNTA DID NOT TAKE DECISION ON MOVE FOR COLLECTIVE CABINET IMPEACHMENT OR ON PN' S RECENT INITIATIVE TO IMPEACH MINECON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ORLANDO MILLAS ( PCCH) OVER JAP ABUSES. HOWEVER, STAGE SEEMS SET FOR NEW NATIONAL COUNCIL TO CONSIDER MEASURES SUCH AS THESE. DECON 5/14/74.  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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